

# House Parties for Hope

Host a movie night to screen *Born into Brothels* and raise funds for the film's legacy project – Hope House - to support more children from Calcutta's largest red-light district



[www.kids-with-cameras.org](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org)

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**Kids with Cameras**

Empowering children through the art of photography

## Hosting a *Born into Brothels* Movie Night House Party

Thank you for your interest in hosting a *Born into Brothels* Movie Night House Party. We hope that this manual will give you everything you need to have a fun and successful screening. If you ever have any questions, feel free to email us at [info@kids-with-cameras.org](mailto:info@kids-with-cameras.org).

### What Are We Trying To Accomplish?

The goal of hosting a movie night house party to screen *Born into Brothels* is to **raise funds for Hope House, create meaningful dialogue** and **empower your guests to make a difference** in the lives of more children like those featured in the film.

By hosting a **House Party for Hope**, you will be setting the stage to inspire people of various backgrounds to make a direct impact on children in the Sonagachi red light district through contributing to **Hope House**, the legacy project of the film and the Kids with Cameras Foundation.

Hope House will be a safe haven for 100 girls from Sonagachi to live and attend the best private day schools in Calcutta. Hope House will be a state of the art facility with computer labs, arts instruction (music, dance, and photography) and all of the physical and psychological support the girls will need to change their circumstances. There will be a formal mentorship program for the girls with students at an adjacent College of Nursing and an opportunity for their mothers to have alternate employment at a laundry facility being constructed nearby.

Once constructed, the Buntain Foundation will manage Hope House. With more than 50 years of experience doing humanitarian work in Calcutta, the Buntain Foundation operates more than 100 schools in and around Calcutta, as well as the Calcutta Mercy Hospital, which serves approximately 100,000 patients annually. Our partnership guarantees that they will provide full scholarships through high school at the top private school each girl qualifies to attend.

The Buntains have begun operating mobile health clinics in Sonagachi to provide care and build relationships with the women and children living in the brothels. They are simultaneously planning the construction of their College of Nursing and Laundry facilities to complement the programs of Hope House.

Hope House is a demonstration project. We hope it will be a successful model that can be replicated to serve more children in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to help us to build a home to foster creativity, arts, mentorship and education for the children of prostitutes. It's one way to make a difference in the lives only seen as numbers in the grim reports on worldwide trafficking and the dismal conditions for sex workers and their children.

## **Organizing Your House Party for Hope**

Below are some step-by-step instructions on how to organize a fun and successful *Born into Brothels* Movie Night Fundraiser.

### **Step 1. PREPARATION:**

**Set a Date and Time:** Allow at least 2.5 hours for your event. The running time of the film is 1 hour 23 minutes.

**Location:** Your screening party does not have to be held in your house. You can hold it at your school, community center, place of worship, or any other local venue that would be suitable and agreeable to having a screening as a fundraiser. We've heard stories of screenings in cafes, galleries, yoga studios, and libraries ... there are many options! Make sure to let your guests know the directions and if parking may be an issue.

**Format:** Think about whether you would to ask your guests to contribute to food and beverage, or if you are going to provide the refreshments. Be sure to let your guests know what you expect of them.

**The Invitation:** Once you have set the date and time for your party, you are ready to invite your guests. It is up to you to decide how many people you feel comfortable having (depending on the venue). In addition to inviting your friends and neighbors, you can also invite co-workers and other community members. As you invite people to your party, you can use a free online invitation, such as <http://www.evite.com> or through the event function on Facebook, to help keep track of RSVPs and other details.

The film is rated R so consider that when inviting parents who may bring young children with them.

Make sure to include in your invitation that this is a fundraiser so that your friends know in advance that they will be asked to make a contribution at the end of the evening. You can also include a link to our website if they want to contribute in advance: [www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute).

**The Film:** Make sure you obtain a copy of the *Born into Brothels* DVD that will be compatible with your DVD player or your computer. Also, contact us at [info@kids-with-cameras.org](mailto:info@kids-with-cameras.org) to receive the Hope House Companion DVD that contains a 3-minute introduction to Hope House by Avijit Halder (one of the children in the film), this manual, photos of the Hope House Property, images of the architectural renderings, and our fully detailed Case for Support.

You can also download these materials from our website: <http://www.kids-with-cameras.org>

## **Step 2. THE WEEK BEFORE THE PARTY**

**Confirm Your Guest List:** Call or email your expected guests to confirm attendance. Once you know your group's size, you are ready to prepare a seating arrangement for the screening, and also to decide the refreshments you may want to provide.

**Sign-In Sheet:** Preparing a sign-in sheet allows guests to share contact information—such as name, phone number, and email address. This will help you organize and keep track of donations received that night, and to possibly plan a follow-up gathering for those who are interested in continuing to get together.

**Photographing Your Party (optional):** We would like to post “great moments” from your House Party on the Kids with Cameras website. We are looking specifically for photos and stories that can inspire others. Send selected photos to [info@kids-with-cameras.org](mailto:info@kids-with-cameras.org) or post to our Facebook page for Kids with Cameras.

**Inviting Local Press (optional):** Getting a story about your house party in a local newspaper or on local TV news is a great way to reach a much broader audience about the repercussions of sex trafficking and why an endeavor like Hope House is so important. Be sure to include all the relevant local information in your press advisory. You can email the advisory to members of the media a few days in advance, and then call them to see if they are interested in attending or learning more about the film and the issues.

**Seating:** Make sure you have adequate seating for the number of guests you expect, and that all seats have an unobstructed view of the screen. You may need to borrow chairs from a friend – be prepared!

**Lighting:** Determine two different lighting setups, one brighter for when guests arrive, and the second, a lower level, for optimal viewing during the film screening.

**The Technology:** Test your DVD and monitor equipment, to make sure there are no problems when your guests are seated and ready to begin. Familiarize yourself with the DVD's main menu so you can quickly start the film, as well as navigate to the Special Features you'll may wish to play later in the party. If you have the Hope House Companion DVD, explore the features on it to familiarize yourself with as much background on Hope House as possible.

**Background Music:** The perfect backdrop to welcoming your guests is the soundtrack of *Born into Brothels*. If you do not already own it, it can be downloaded from iTunes.

**Step 3. THE GUESTS' ARRIVAL & PRESENTING THE ISSUE (15-30 min)**

Put on the Born into Brothels soundtrack as background music, welcome your guests, and thank them for attending. Ask them to fill out the sign in sheet and offer refreshments.

If you have a relatively small group of people that do not know each other very well, you can go around the room and have everyone introduce himself/herself and share a little bit about why they wanted to come to the house party.

Once everyone is comfortable, you will want to introduce the reasons why you are having the house party. Offer a short description of ***Born into Brothels*** (if needed refer to the synopsis and reviews on [www.kids-with-cameras.org](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org)). Explain what drew you to the film and why you are excited to hold this House Party to support Hope House. For further background on Hope House, please read the background material in the Case for Support and on the Kids with Cameras website: [www.kids-with-cameras.org/school](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/school).

Suggest your guests visit the restroom prior to the screening, by letting them know the film lasts 83 minutes.

Let your guests know that after the film, you'll be showing a short 3-minute video introduction to Hope House.

**Step 4. SCREEN THE FILM (83 min.)**

Watch ***Born into Brothels***.

**Step 5. AFTER THE FILM – Discussion, Introduction of Hope House, and Asking for Contributions (15-20 min.)**

Ask if anyone would like to share initial reactions to the film.

Tell your guests that you would like to show them a short video that will introduce them to Hope House – (insert the Hope House Companion DVD into your DVD player or computer). First play the Introduction to Hope House (a 3-minute film speaking about what Hope House is and why it is important).

If time allows and your guests are interested, play the selection of Avijit Halder's films he has made as a student at NYU. (Avijit is one of the children featured in Born into Brothels). You can also show your guests the photos of the Hope House property and the architectural renderings if you are playing the DVD from your computer.

**Remind your guests that your movie night house party is a fundraiser, and ask them to contribute to Hope House as generously as they can.**

Please note that Kids with Cameras is only a registered charity in the U.S., so only donations in the U.S. are tax-deductible.

There are several ways to encourage your guests to donate – either by setting a suggested donation amount, or asking them to help reach a goal you set for your party. Perhaps you choose to give a prize (like a copy of the Born into Brothels DVD!) to the biggest donor that night.

Any contribution, large or small, is greatly appreciated.

If you collect checks or cash, please confirm the amount donated with the donor's contact information on the sign up sheet so that Kids with Cameras can issue a tax receipt. As the party's host, please write us a check for the amount of cash received as we do not wish cash to be sent by mail. Your guests can also donate online with any major credit card on our website: [www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute).

Remind your guests that they can also support Kids with Cameras through buying a Born into Brothels DVD in addition to a beautiful book or prints of the children's photos from the original Calcutta workshop:  
**[www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute/?page=shopkwc](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute/?page=shopkwc)**

**Step 6: THANKING YOUR GUESTS AND PROPOSING NEXT STEPS**  
**(15 minutes)**

At the end of the night, thank your guests for helping to make your movie night house party a success. Encourage your guests to visit [www.kids-with-cameras.org](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org) to keep up on our news and other events. They can receive updates on Kids with Cameras and Hope House by signing up for our e-newsletter and joining as a fan of Kids with Cameras on Facebook.

Also, if they did not donate at your event, remind them they can do online once they get home.

**Step 7: FOLLOW UP AFTER THE EVENT**

Send an email to your guests the day after your event, thanking them once again for attending. If they already donated to Hope House, let them know how much it is appreciated by you and Kids with Cameras. If they have not donated, include the link for them to do so: [www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute).

**Please mail your sign in sheets and all collected donations to:**  
**Kids with Cameras**  
**122 South Main Street**  
**Salt Lake City, UT 84101**

If you took photos at the party, please email them to us at [info@kids-with-cameras.org](mailto:info@kids-with-cameras.org) or post them to our Facebook page!

## **FAQs for Hope House and Born into Brothels**

### **1. What is the current status of the kids in the film?**

As of October 2009:

Avijit is studying film at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and is enjoying life in New York.

Kochi is studying at a private high school in Utah and getting top marks in all of her classes.

Manik and Shanti are both still studying at FutureHope, where they are doing very well.

Tapasi left Sabera on her own accord three years ago and has since married.

Suchitra has married and moved out of Calcutta.

Puja and Gour are believed to still be living in the red-light district but have lost contact with Kids with Cameras.

Kids with Cameras also supports the friends and siblings of the children featured in the film through sponsorships at Sabera and FutureHope.

### **2. Is Hope House a school?**

No. Hope House will be an academy-like setting with instruction in computers, English, music, art, film, photography and dance, but the girls will attend private day school.

### **3. Why is Hope House only for girls?**

Because of the potential complications of having a co-ed living facility with young adolescents, Hope House will be only for girls at this time.

### **4. With girls coming from many different backgrounds, will Hope House have a religious affiliation?**

No. Hope House will be secular and the girls are free to practice any religion they choose at Hope House.

### **5. How many girls will live at Hope House?**

Up to 100. If there is a need to expand at a later time, there is potential to do so on the same property.

### **6. How will you get the girls to come to live at Hope House and leave the brothel?**

The Buntain Foundation has begun to work with prostitutes and their children through mobile health clinics in Sonagachi. The clinicians are working to build trust with the mothers to encourage them to give permission for their daughters to live at Hope House once it is built.

**7. How far is Hope House from downtown Calcutta and Sonagachi?**

Hope House is 45 minutes by car from downtown and 60 minutes from Sonagachi.

**8. Where will visiting artists stay who want to come to give a workshop at Hope House?**

We plan to construct a guesthouse for visiting artists and professionals on the property after the first phase of construction on the main building is complete.

**9. How about the mothers of the girls at Hope House? Are you reaching out to them?**

Yes. The mothers will be offered a chance at alternative employment at a laundry facility to be constructed near to Hope House. The laundry facility will service Calcutta Mercy Hospital.

**10. When do you plan to open Hope House?**

We plan to break ground in early 2010 though it could be pushed as late as Spring 2010. It will take approximately 9 to 12 months to complete construction. We expect to be open for the start of the Indian school year in April 2011.

**11. How can I contribute to Kids with Cameras and Hope House?**

Log on to [www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute](http://www.kids-with-cameras.org/contribute).

Other questions? Email us at [info@kids-with-cameras.org](mailto:info@kids-with-cameras.org).